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MEREDITH FAMILY HISTORY

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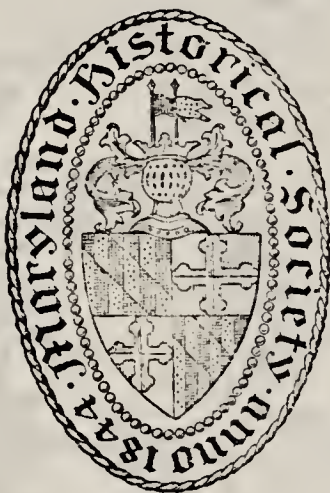
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71 Meredith family history. Cambridge, Md.[1961]
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1. Meredith family.

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Gift of
Mrs. Winfield McKoen

April

1961



Meredith

From Meredith family tradition there were four brothers who came from Wales and first settled in the Province of Virginia. One brother stayed in Virginia, One went West, one went to New Jersey and one went to Maryland. How much of this tradition is true, I do not know, however, the progenitor of the Dorchester County Meredith family, was one John Meredith who came into the Province of Maryland, with Sir Andrew Cook, in 1663. Sir Andrew Cook bought land in Dorchester County as early as 1661, when he purchased a tract containing 1000 acres called "Maulden", better known as "Cook's Point". Sir Andrew Cook made a very profitable business of bringing emigrants into this Country, for which he received 50 acres of land for each person transported. He not only transported passengers to Dorchester County, but also to Kent, Talbot and Calvert Counties, for which he received large grants of land. It is believed that John Meredith Sr. had sons John and Job who later settled in what is known today as Queen Anne County. In the Dorchester County, Maryland Land Records we find a tract of land called "Job's Defiance" sold by Job Meredith, and by reference to the Patent Records found in The Land Office of Maryland, we find that this tract was patented to John Meredith. Later in the 1776, Census Record, we find Job Meredith in Queen Anne County. In the Queen Anne Meredith family, we find the identical names as those in Dorchester County, Namely: John, William and Thomas Meredith.

From early records found in The Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland, we find that John Meredith, the progenitor of the Dorchester County family, was a builder of ships, and as the only means of transportation in this Country was by water, he saw a great demand for boat building and came to America in 1663, with Sir Andrew Cook. (See Early Settler lists found in The Land Office of Maryland, Liber 7, 524.)

FIRST GENERATION: John Meredith and Sarah, his wife, took up quite a lot of land in Dorchester County. The name of one tract of land "Twkesbury", was given to him for coming into the Province of Maryland. We have wondered why John Meredith called this tract of land "Twkesbury" but perhaps it was the name of his native town in Wales. He added to his land holdings other tracts of land, one called "Stubb's Desire", "Job's Defiance", "Vale of Misery" which he took up with George Hooper. In The Land Office of Maryland a tract of land was patented to John Meredith in 1683, named "Meredith's Chance". This tract of land was given to him by James Pattison, which leads us to believe he married the daughter of James Pattison. John Meredith also bought several

tracts of land.

The above John Meredith died before Aug. 16, 1703, for on that date, his Will was probated. (Baldwin Wills, Vol. 3, folio 160.) An abstract of that Will is as follows:- "To Godson John Gripe and to William, son of Robert Hicks, personally. To Granddaughter, Jane Turner at 16 years of age and heirs 25 acres (unnamed) where her Father Edward Turner lives. To son William and heirs, 50 acres "Twkesbury" To daughter Sarah, wife of Edward Turner, "Sarah's Lot". To wife, Sarah, executrix, residue of estate, real and personal during her widowhood. In event of her marriage or death, all real estate to pass to my son William's children, and children of my daughter Sarah".

Children of John Meredith and Sarah, his wife were: 1. William Meredith, 2. Sarah Meredith, who at the time of her father's death was married to Edward Turner.

SECOND GENERATION: William Meredith, only son of John Meredith and his wife Sarah, married Elizabeth Palmer, daughter of Sarah Palmer. (See Old 6, 181, Bill of Sale, Dorchester County, Sarah Palmer to her Granddaughter Sarah Meredith.)

William Meredith did not live long after his Father's death, for we find his Will probated July 6, 1711, an abstract of which is taken from Baldwin Wills, Vol. 3, page 203, and is as follows:

"To daughter Mary and heirs 50 acres of Meredith's Chance.

To daughter Sarah and heirs 50 acres of Meredith's Chance.

To wife Elizabeth Meredith, executrix, "William's Lot" (alias Billie's Lot)

To son William Meredith and heirs, residue of real estate; he dying without issue to pass to daughters aforesaid.

My Mother Sarah Meredith to be maintained out of my estate."

The names of the children of William^{Meredith} and Elizabeth Palmer, are as follows:-
1. Sarah Meredith, 2. Mary Meredith, 3. William Meredith. The records reveal that all three children were minors at the time of their father's death.

Upon the death of her husband, William Meredith, Elizabeth Meredith sold "William's Lot" to Zebulon Pritchett.

Elizabeth Meredith later married Lewis Griffith. She lived until around Jan. 11, 1765, for on that date her Will was probated. In her Will she left all of her property to her three Meredith children, naming her son William Meredith as executor. Her Grandson John Meredith went on the bond for his father William.

THIRD GENERATION: William Meredith Jr. married Mollie? As I have said before John Meredith (First Generation) left only a life estate to his son William Meredith. At his wife Sarah Meredith's death, it was to be divided between his

grandchildren, the children of his son William and his daughter Sarah. Sarah Meredith, widow of the said John Meredith, did not die until 1730, for in that year, we find their grandson, William Meredith Jr. petitioning the Court to appoint a commission to establish the bounds of the land he had inherited from his grandfather, and to allow him to add vacant land. In these proceedings both his mother, Elizabeth M. Griffith and his step-father, Lewis Griffith testify as to certain bounders. William Meredith Jr. wished to consolidate the various tracts of land into one large tract, which he called "Meredith's Enclosure". The Patent Records found in Annapolis, Maryland, reveal that in this large tract, the following tracts were included: "Meredith's Chance", "Stubb's Desire", "Insley's Chance", "Twkesbury" and "Great Wadlam". In the Debt Book, called "The Quit Rent Roll Records", found in The Land Office of Maryland, Annapolis, it states that William Meredith owned and paid taxes on these lands from 1730 to 1770. This would indicate, no doubt, the year in which he died. On account of the Court House fire, Dorchester County, Maryland, in 1850, there are no Will records for Dorchester County from 1770 to 1850, except a few where members of various families had copies of Wills, and loaned them to said office for record.

The above William Meredith Jr. on Feb. 18, 1755, conveys to his son John Meredith, a tract of land called "Job's Defiance", located on Hungar River, Dorchester County Land Record, Old 15, 207. On the Quit Rent Rolls of 1756, John Meredith is charged with this tract of land, and in said record it mentions the fact that he is the son of William Meredith.

By Land Record proof, the sons of William Meredith Jr. and Mollie, his wife were: 1. William Meredith, 2. John Meredith and 3. Thomas Meredith.

In Brumbaugh's Volume 2, page 98, where it lists the Land Census of 1776, it lists only two male heads of family and one female. They are: William Meredith, John Meredith and Rebecca Meredith. Rebecca Meredith was no doubt the wife of Thomas Meredith, a younger brother.

The 1776 Census lists William Meredith as a man over 50, one boy 21, one girl 16 to 21.

The 1776 Census lists John Meredith as being from 40 to 50, with wife 30 to 40; it lists two boys 10 years or under, one boy 10 to 16, 2 girls 10 to 16.

FOURTH GENERATION: John Meredith, second son of William Meredith and Mollie, who in the Census of 1776, is listed as forty odd years of age, born about 1735, married Rachel Pritchett, the daughter of John Pritchett and his wife Rachel.

(John Pritchett was the son of Zebulon Pritchett and Rachel, his wife. Zebulon was the son of Dr. John Pritchett, a chemist, who was the progenitor of the Pritchett line. John Pritchett, father of Rachel Meredith, died in 1756, by reference to administration account found in Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.) Rachel Meredith, upon the death of her father John Pritchett, inherited two tracts of land, one Pritchett's Ridge and one "Humstead". John Meredith and Rachel, his wife sold the above named tracts of land, Feb. 3, 1781 to James Wingate, consideration 500 lbs. of currency. Dorchester Co. Land Record Old. 28,416.

John Meredith's first wife Rachel, died before 1784, for in that year, we find him married to Rachel Meredith's youngest sister, Jane Pritchett, who was born January 15, 1754. (Old Trinity Church Record, Hall of Records, Annapolis.) On September 30, 1784, we find John Meredith and his wife Jane, transferring part of two tracts of land which John had inherited from his Father William Meredith, to his brother Thomas Meredith. In 1794, we find John Meredith and his wife Jane, transferring the remainder of the land he had inherited, to his son Thomas Meredith, consideration five pounds. (H. D. No. 6, 601, Dorchester County Land Record.) Around the same date we find John Meredith purchasing just a small tract of land called "Addition to Callais" situated on Blackwater River.

In Old Trinity Church Records, found at The Hall of Records, Annapolis, is this record: "Pritchett Meredith, Born May 27, 1770, son of John and Rachel Meredith." John Meredith and his wife Rachel, in the 1776 Census Record, found in Volume 2 of Brumbaugh are listed as having three sons and two daughters. In Old Trinity Church Records, after 1776, John Meredith and Jane are listed as having two more children, Mary Meredith and Samuel Meredith. There is a record in the old Family Bible of the Meredith family that indicates that John Meredith died Jan. 6, 1799. In the latter part of December, 1799, Jane Meredith remarried.

FIFTH GENERATION: Pritchett Meredith, son of John Meredith and Rachel Pritchett, who was born May 27, 1770, married Ann Jackson, May 10, 1793. In the Baptismal records of Christ Church, Cambridge, Md. now located in Hall of Records in Annapolis all of the children of Pritchett Meredith and Ann, his wife are named, except Matilda Meredith, an only daughter. All of the children are named however, in a Land Commission Record, recorded in E. R. No. 8, 164, Land Commission Record of Dorchester County, which are as follows:-

1. Zebedee Meredith, born Feb. 27, 1794, married Sophia Sullivan, Feb. 5, 1828, died before 1838, leaving one son, John Meredith. E. R. 8 page 164.

2. Matilda Meredith, who married Benjamin Reed, Feb. 12, 1825.
3. John Meredith, born Dec. 23, 1795, intermarried with Rosanne Hull, the widow of Charles Nowbray. Died without children in 1838, see last named Commission Record.
4. Pritchett Meredith Jr. born January 27, 1798, died Dec. 10, 1869, of whom further.
5. George Meredith, born July 28, 1805, died Jan. 16, 1880, (Grave Marker found in the old burying ground of Pritchett Meredith) married four times: First Nancy Bramble, Second, Eliza Nowbray. By these two wives no children were born. Third, he married Elizabeth Cooper, January 17, 1832. Fourth, he married Lavenia Blake, a widow, June 9, 1856. Before her marriage she was Lavenia Stevens.

Pritchett Meredith Sr. died before 1810, for on June 4, 1810, his widow Ann Jackson, had married Luke Petty. Quite an interesting Bill of Sale, in which Luke Petty conveys to John Meredith, son of his wife Ann, all of the household effects which came into his possession by his marriage to John's mother, Ann Meredith, is found in Dorchester County Land Record, H. D. No. 28, folio 245.

SIXTH GENERATION: Pritchett Meredith Jr. born January 27, 1798, married Sarah Hambleton, widow of Edward Hambleton, Oct. 28, 1822. (Marriage Records Dorchester County.) Sarah Meredith's maiden name was Sarah Gamble. As Pritchett Meredith's father died when he was just a boy, it is believed that Pritchett Meredith Jr. went to live with his Father's brother, Thomas Meredith and his wife Mary Stevens. In the burial ground of the Stevens family, later bought by Pritchett Meredith, Jr. can be found the burial marker of Edward Stevens Meredith son of Thomas Meredith and Mary Stevens, his wife. In this burying ground, may also be found the markers of Pritchett Meredith, his wife Sarah, and many more. Many of the stones have fallen to the ground and have been covered over.

From the will of Pritchett Meredith Jr. there was only one child by this marriage, namely, Thomas Merritt Meredith. (Will Record Dorchester County, E.W.L. No. 1, page 458) In this Will, Pritchett Meredith mentions son, Thomas M. Meredith, granddaughter, Sarah Pritchett Nab b, and grandson, Joseph Bestpitch Meredith. Pritchett Meredith in his Will, also states that his old burying ground should never be sold, but used as a burying ground for his family.

Pritchett Meredith is buried in this old burying ground, and his marker reads: "Pritchett Meredith died December 10, 1869." Sarah, his wife is also buried here and her marker reads: "Sarah, wife of Pritchett Meredith, died August 12, 1857".

Pritchett Meredith married secondly, Margaret Twilley, widow of Slater Twilley. She was supposed to have been a relative of his first wife. Her maiden name was Margaret Gamble. She left a will in which she leaves her slaves to her husband.

SEVENTH GENERATION: Thomas Merritt Meredith, only son of Pritchett Meredith and Sarah Gamble, his wife, was born August 3, 1823, and died May 8, 1881. Thomas M. Meredith, like the six generations before him, was a ship builder and was always the owner of a nice boat. One boat he named after his son, for he called it "The J. B. Meredith." He also followed the line of his father, for he was considered the best farmer in his neighborhood, and always kept his farms in the highest state of cultivation. By reference to an Atlas put out in 1877 by Lake, Griffing and Stevenson, Thomas M. Meredith was the largest land owner in Bucktown District and second largest in Dorchester County. One farm known as "North Yarmouth" on Transquaking River, but better known as "The White House Farm", he inherited from his Father, Pritchett Meredith.

Thomas M. Meredith married twice. His first wife, Mary Jane Rowens, was born December 27, 1825, died in 1850, the daughter of Betsy and William Rowens. They were married January 8, 1844, and by this marriage three children were born:

1. Edward Stevens Meredith, born Nov. 21, 1844.
2. Sarah Jane Pritchett Meredith, born March 18, 1849, married John Nabb, July 3, 1867.
3. Mary Jane Meredith, born June 28, 1850, died Dec. 8, 1859.

Thomas M. Meredith, on November 5, 1850, married secondly, Elizabeth Ann Stevens, born November 3, 1828, died April 1, 1906, the daughter of Elijah B. Stevens and Ann Sweeting, his wife. By this marriage they had the following children:-

4. Margaret Ann Meredith, born Oct. 29, 1851.
5. Emma Virginia Meredith, born June 12, 1854, married Percy Vinton, Nov. 10, 1875.
6. Elizabeth Thomas Meredith, born Nov. 29, 1855, married J. R. D. Collins.
7. Joseph Bestpitch Meredith, born Feb. 12, 1857, died July 15, 1928, of whom further.
8. Mary C. Meredith, born May 12, 1859, burned to death Jan. 29, 1865.
9. McKenny White Meredith, born Oct. 8, 1862, died Jan. 31, 1915, married Gertrude Vickers, Dec. 18, 1882.
10. Pritchett Meredith, born Feb. 13, 1870.
11. Annie Amos Meredith, born Oct. 24, 1872, married Elmer Hearn.

EIGHTH GENERATION: Joseph Bestpitch Meredith, born Feb. 12, 1857, intermarried with Evadna Jane George Handley, on June 12, 1879, in Baltimore, Md. The minister who performed the ceremony was Rev. G. W. Cooper. Evadna Meredith, was born Nov. 8, 1857, at East New Market, Md. the daughter of Lloyd David P. George, of Wales, and his wife, Eveann George. Evadna Jane George's parents died when she was just an infant, and she was adopted by D. Clinton Handley and wife.

Joseph B. Meredith was born Feb. 12, 1857, at what is known as "The White House Farm" on Transquaking River. In "Rivers of The Eastern Shore", Hulbert Footner described "The White House Farm" as follows: "Our destination was 'White

House Farm' on the Transquaking, but the road had so many turns, that we lost our sense of Direction and suddenly came out on B estpitch Ferry. After receiving new directions we turned about and soon came to 'The White House Farm'. The house is a gentleman's residence, with brick walls, two feet thick, and I was told, fine interior woodwork. My friend pointed out the spot on the river where the little tops'l schooner, J. B. Meredith was built, and drew a neat sketch of her, adding 'For many years she made money for her owners by carrying out the farmers' corn and bringing in their fertilizer'.

Joseph B. Meredith attended the Public Schools of Dorchester County, and later attended Randolph Macon College. After returning home from college, he entered the mercantile business and continued in that business, until the death of his father, Thomas M. Meredith, at which time he went back to the Home Farm until he returned to Cambridge, in 1898.

Mr. Meredith was an ardent Democrat, and was actively connected with party affairs for fifty years. He was elected to the Maryland Legislature in the election of 1891. After his removal to Cambridge, in 1898, he was connected with the administration of public schools, until the time of his death. Mr. Meredith was a man of sterling character and sincere interests. He was a member of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church. He died July 15, 1928. Evadna Meredith, his wife died Feb. 24, 1942. Both were interred in the East New Market Cemetery.

Joseph B. Meredith and Evadna George, his wife, had the following children:-

1. Emma Handley, ^{Meredith} born June 29, 1880, died March 24, 1932. She married August 28, 1901, John Nichols. Their children were: Arthur Meredith Nichols, Evadna Katherine Nichols and Thomas Steele Nichols.
2. Rose Baine Meredith, born August 25, 1882, married Leon Tschantre, June 7, 1904. Their children were: Joseph Emile Tschantre, Winafred Lina Tschantre and Evadna Mary Tschantre.
3. Mary Catharine Meredith, born April 28, 1888, baptised in June 1888, by Rev. Thomas J. Bayton. On September 18, 1918, she married Winfield McKeon, at Cambridge, Md.

NINTH GENERATION: Mary Catharine Meredith, wife of Winfield McKeon, was born April 28, 1888, and on September 18, 1918, married Winfield McKeon of New York City. Mr. McKeon, born June 7, 1886, was the son of Henry McKeon and Ophelia Deyer. He attended the public schools of New York City, and in 1910, graduated from New York University, School of Commerce, Accounts and Finance. In 1914, he became

a certified public accountant. He served as District Auditor, Deputy General Comptroller of The United States Shipping Board, Emergency Fleet Corporation, from 1916 to 1922. Practiced as a certified public accountant on own account until 1932, and has been a member of the firm, McKeon & Strong, Certified Public Accountants since then. He was a member of New York State Board of Certified Public Accountants' Examiners from 1934 to 1954. Mr. McKeon is Past Master of Knickerbocker Lodge No. 642, F. A. M. Senior Warden of St. John's Episcopal Church, Flushing, L. I. In the year 1960, Mr. McKeon's Class of 1910, were the Totem Pole Winners, which took attendance honors on Dean's Day at New York University. Mr. and Mrs. Winfield McKeon reside at 4103-168th St. Flushing 58, N. Y.

TENTH GENERATION: Winfield Meredith McKeon, son of Winfield McKeon and Mary C. Meredith, his wife, was born Oct. 1, 1919, in Philadelphia, Pa. He attended the public schools of Flushing, Long Island, and like his father, graduated from New York University, School of Commerce, Accounts and Finance. He holds a B. S. Degree in accounting from New York University, and Master's Degree from the University's Graduate School of Business Administration.

Winfield M. McKeon on November 16, 1944, married Maxine Munro McIvor, in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. His wife was born March 13, 1920, in Eston, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Mr. McKeon, at present is employed by the National Association of Mutual Savings Banks as Controller, and Assistant Treasurer. He is a Certified Public Accountant, and served for twelve years as a partner in the firm of McKeon & Strong of New York City. Prior to that he was Chief Clerk in the Finance Office, United States Army, and Assistant Fiscal Director Northwest Service Command.

Winfield M. McKeon and Maxine McIvor have three children: 1. Bruce Hamilton McKeon, 2. Ross Winfield McKeon, 3. Scott Meredith McKeon. They reside in Bayside, Long Island.

TENTH GENERATION: George Deyer McKeon, youngest son of Mary C. Meredith and Winfield McKeon, was born Jan. 11, 1924, in Cambridge, Maryland. He attended the public schools of Flushing, Long Island and later attended New York University and graduated with a B. S. Degree. He then attended Brooklyn Law School and received his L. L. B. Degree. He is a member of the Cattaraugus Bar Association, American Bar Association, and New York State Bar Association. At present he is a practicing attorney. He is also engaged as Trust Officer for The First National

Bank, Olean, New York.

During World War 2, George D. McKeon served as a flyer with The United States Army Air Force; and in the Korean War, he served as a Counter Intelligence Officer Rank, Captain.

On November 23, 1956, George D. McKeon, married Martha Jane Phillips of Palmyra, New York. By this marriage there are two children: 1. Laura Katherine McKeon, born September 27, 1957, and 2. Jane Meredith McKeon, born December 28, 1959.

SUMMARY

FIRST GENERATION: John Meredith, who came to Province of Maryland, in 1663, with Sir Andrew Cook. John Meredith married Sarah and had the following children: 1. William Meredith, 2. Sarah Meredith.

Reference: Baldwin Wills, Vol. 3, 160. John Meredith died in 1703.

SECOND GENERATION: William Meredith married Elizabeth Palmer. They had the following children: 1. Sarah Meredith, 2. Mary Meredith, 3. William Meredith Jr. William Meredith Sr. died in 1711, Reference to Baldwin Wills, No. 3, page 203.

THIRD GENERATION: William Meredith Jr. and Molly, his wife, had the following children: 1. William Meredith, 2. John Meredith, 3. Thomas Meredith.

Reference to Land Records Dorchester County, Maryland.

FOURTH GENERATION: John Meredith, born about 1735, (Census Record of 1776) married first Rachel Pritchett, secondly, Jane Pritchett. John Meredith and Rachel Pritchett, his wife had three sons: 1. William Meredith, 2. Pritchett Meredith, 3. Thomas Meredith. John Meredith and Jane Pritchett had two children: 1. May Meredith, 2. Samuel Meredith.

FIFTH GENERATION: Pritchett Meredith born May 27, 1770 (Old Trinity Church Record) married Ann Jackson and their children were: 1. Zebedee Meredith, Matilda Meredith John Meredith, Pritchett Meredith and George Meredith.

SIXTH GENERATION: Pritchett Meredith Jr. and Sarah Gamble had but one child, 1. Thomas Merritt Meredith.

SEVENTH GENERATION: Thomas Merritt Meredith married twice. His first wife was Mary Jane Rowens, and their children were: Edward S. Meredith, Mary Jane Meredith and Sarah Pritchett Meredith.

Thomas M. Meredith's second wife was Elizabeth Ann Stevens, their children were: Margaret Ann Meredith, Emma Virginia Meredith, Elizabeth Thomas Meredith,

Joseph Bestpitch Meredith, Annie Amos Meredith, McKenny White Meredith, Pritchett Meredith and Mary Caroline Meredith.

EIGHTH GENERATION: Joseph Bestpitch Meredith and Eva Jane George Handley, his wife, had the following children: Emma Handley Meredith, Rose Baine Meredith and Mary Catharine Meredith.

NINTH GENERATION: Mary Catharine Meredith, intermarried with Winfield McKeon, have two sons: Winfield Meredith McKeon and George Deyer McKeon.

TENTH GENERATION: Winfield Meredith McKeon married Maxine M. McIvor, their children are: Bruce Hamilton McKeon, Ross Winfield McKeon, and Scott Meredith McKeon.

TENTH GENERATION: George Deyer McKeon and Martha Jane Phillips, his wife, their children: Laura Catharine McKeon, Jane Meredith McKeon.

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